

Board of County Commissioners
Leon County, Florida

**Workshop on
2005 State and Federal Legislative Priorities**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 21, 2004

Leon County Courthouse
Commission Chambers
5th Floor



Board of County Commissioners

Workshop Item

Date of Meeting: September 21, 2004

Date Submitted: September 16, 2004

TO: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

FROM: Parwez Alam, County Administrator 
Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Workshop on 2005 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

To conduct a workshop with the Board on the state and federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts for the 2005 state legislative session and the first session of the 109th Congress.

BACKGROUND:

Historically, the Board has conducted a workshop with staff on legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts. In recent years, staff has utilized this forum to receive Board direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal level.

ANALYSIS:

Upon the close of the state legislative session each year, staff solicits legislative appropriations and policy requests from the County's departments. A follow-up working session is conducted with staff to compile a proposed list of new policy issues and appropriations requests, as well as others sought in previous sessions, for Board consideration. Staff has identified 14 appropriation requests and 14 policy statements covering six legislative areas for the 2005 state legislative session (please see Attachments #1 and #2). Our federal legislative efforts are focused on appropriation requests. Staff has identified nine federal appropriations requests for the first session of the 109th Congress (please see Attachment #3).

Rather than ask the Board to rank projects in priority order, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented here to be included in the County's 2005 State and Federal Legislative Programs. Upon Board approval, staff and contract lobbyists will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2005. Staff would also like to welcome the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for our 2005 legislative efforts.

It is important to note that in addition to the specific Leon County issues identified by staff, much of the County's legislative efforts each session are focused on statewide issues in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). FAC will finalize their 2005 Legislative Program during their legislative conference on December 3, 2004. These issues are often times the most critical issues facing the County during the State legislative session.

PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Appropriation Requests

(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #1)

The Board of County Commissioner's practice of retaining professional contractual lobbying services is based primarily on increasing the County's chances of obtaining legislative appropriations. Staff works throughout the year to identify County projects for which to submit state appropriations requests. The appropriation requests identified, below, cover significant County initiatives ranging from increased state funding for stormwater projects to transportation funding. These appropriation requests include targeted grant requests for two significant projects. The first grant funding request is under the State Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Water Quality Grant Program. Staff, administrators from the Northwest Florida Water Management District and members of the Legislative Delegation have identified the Lake Jackson/Harbinwood flood mitigation project as the best County project to forward for FDEP and legislative consideration in the year ahead. This is primarily due to the advanced stage of the project and the fact that it has a significant amount of other state and local funding at present. As has been done previously for other branch libraries, staff is also preparing to submit a library construction grant application for the Lake Jackson Branch Library to the Department of State, for inclusion as part of their FY 05/06 Public Library Construction Grant Program, as will be considered by the 2005 state legislature. Please note: staff will also be work during 2005 to prepare a similar construction grant request for the Apalachee Parkway Branch Library as part of the 2006 legislative process.

The other important appropriation request that the County has targeted for state funding is the Capital Circle NW road widening project from I-10 to US 90 (Tennessee Street). The Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) which was created in 2003 and funded in 2004 is the target for state funding of this project. Over the past two years, the County has worked diligently with state and local partners to gain approval of the Capital Circle NW/SW project for inclusion in the new SIS, as an "intermodal connector" between I-10 and the regional airport. Inclusion of Capital Circle NW/SW as a connector on the SIS was approved in 2004, greatly enhancing the County's ability to gain state funding for this roadway improvement. The County is now preparing to advocate for SIS funding as part of the 2005 legislative cycle.

The other projects listed below, from the Killearn Lakes Sewer Project to the Apalachee Parkway Regional Park, provide staff and the County's contract lobbyists with the opportunity to identify and advocate for the state's funding of Board priorities that match with state objectives, as part of the legislative process. The following is the proposed Leon County 2005 State appropriation requests:

<u>Capital Circle NW/SW (Intermodal Connector)</u> I-10 to West Tennessee Street - Construction	\$26,500,000
<u>Killearn Lakes Sewer Retrofit Project</u> Design/Construction	\$20,000,000
<u>Harbinwood Estates Sewer Retrofit Project</u> Design/Construction	\$8,000,000

<u>Lake Jackson/Harbinwood Flood Mitigation/Water Quality Retrofit</u> Land acquisition and construction	\$1,000,000*
<u>Lake Jackson/Lexington Flood Mitigation/Water Quality Retrofit</u> Land acquisition and construction	\$3,000,000*
<u>Lake Jackson/Rhoden Cove Flood Mitigation/Water Quality Retrofit</u> Land acquisition and construction	\$3,000,000*
<u>Lake Munson</u>	
A) In-Lake Restoration Sediment removal, habitat restoration, and recreational enhancements	\$6,000,000
B) South Slough Improvements Increase floodplain storage and enhance habitat.	\$7,500,000
<u>Women's Health Center</u> Siting/Plan/Construction	\$1,000,000
<u>Frenchtown Primary, Specialty & Mental Health Clinic</u> Siting/Plan/Construction	\$3,000,000
<u>Lake Jackson Branch Library (Public Library Construction Grant)</u> Construction of new County branch library	\$500,000**
<u>Apalachee Parkway Branch Library (Public Library Construction Grant)</u> Construction of new County branch library	\$500,000***
<u>Recycling Innovative Grant (FDEP)</u> Utilize recycled materials to treat landfill gases	\$200,000 #
<u>Apalachee Parkway Regional Park (FRDAP)</u> Construction of new County park at landfill site	\$200,000 #
<u>Lake Jackson Ecopassage</u> Construction of US 27 ecopassage facility	TBD ##

* DEP Water Quality Program Grant to be submitted, requires 2005 legislative approval

** Department of State Public Library Construction Grant to be submitted, requires 2005 legislative approval.

*** Department of State Public Library Construction Grant to be submitted, requires 2005 legislative approval.

FDEP Innovative and FRDAP grants require 2005 state legislative approval.

Funding request level to be established upon completion of feasibility study in January of 2005.

PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2005 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Policy Requests

(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #2)

Like most legislation, much of the County's legislative efforts are incremental and are focused on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions. However, each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or "substantive" legislative issues. Significant substantive issues that have been identified for County participation range from protection of the state workforce to the development of a state Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program; from continued state funding for waste tire grant programs to increased funding for mental health services.

In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works daily with FAC and the Florida Association on Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) to identify developing issues that effect counties during session's quick pace. In many cases, the County joins FAC and FAIR members to advocate for or against initiatives that would substantially impact counties (*Please note: FAIR members are representatives of local governments from across the state.*).

Please find, below, a listing of the proposed Leon County 2005 State Legislative Session policy requests. Each request indicates the specific legislative action recommended for each specific issue:

Section I. Finance and Tax

State Cost-shift opposition

Issue: The 2004 Legislature passed a bill shifting \$90 million in state costs for the predisposition of juvenile offenders to counties. This move impacted Leon County by \$1.4 million this year, alone. Additional legislation that would have cut up to \$220 million from the state's Medicaid Program, including the effective elimination of the Medically Needy program, were not passed. However, it is likely that similar and/or additional legislation to create unfunded mandates upon or shift costs to counties will be reintroduced again in the 2005 legislative session.

Action: Support the continued state funding of state programs, including the Medicaid program.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Issue: In 2002, the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations studied the PILOT issue and it's potential applicability for Florida. Substantial effort to pass PILOT legislation over the past three years, as led by Leon County, has been met with significant opposition and was unsuccessful. However, this worthy issue remains qualified for additional legislative effort.

Action: Seek legislation creating a new PILOT program beneficial to Leon County.

Section II. Growth Management, Environment, Transportation & Infrastructure

SIS Funding

Issue: Legislators created the new Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) in 2003 to improve the system by which state road projects are prioritized for funding. During the 2004 regular session, a funding mechanism for this system was designated. Significantly, ongoing County efforts to include Capital Circle NW from I-10 to the Airport as a "connector" roadway on the SIS were also successful in 2004. For 2005, staff will continue to work with key decision makers to place priority County transportation projects on the SIS and enhance the potential for state funding of these County projects.

Action: Monitor this issue and advocate County position.

Growth Management Reform

Issue: The 2004 Legislature considered significant growth management reforms ranging from reforming the process for city annexations to clarifying the powers that charter counties have in creating new Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs). Although both of these efforts failed, numerous growth management issues have been studied in preparation for action in 2005. From a review of the state's growth management policy, to a study to create a Land Use Board of Appeals to an LCIR study on CRAs, it is likely that 2005 will be a busy year for these and other unanticipated growth management issues.

Action: Continue to monitor growth management issues and advocate county position.

Section III. Health and Social Services

Mental Health

Issue: Improve the shortage of local treatment opportunities and reduce the number of mentally ill in the county jail.

Action: Support the Florida Partners in Crisis legislative efforts in 2005 to address the above issues.

Section IV. Public Safety

County Jail

Issue: Jail Overcrowding

Action: Support the state funding of state prisoners in county jails. Monitor legislation which requires supervision of early release prisoners and of the numbers of juveniles for their impact on county jail populations.

Probation

Issue: Jail Overcrowding

Action: Monitor any changes affecting house arrest and support its expanded allowable use as a condition of probation in misdemeanor and traffic offenses.

Issue: Pretrial Release

Action: Monitor any changes to statutes affecting pretrial release and advocate continued support for program.

Issue: Juvenile Justice Funding

Action: Monitor funding levels and the potential reduction of local alternative and prevention programs to ensure that no further burden for treatment and prevention of juveniles is not shifted to counties (a \$90 million cost shift to counties for DJJ costs was approved in 2004).

Section V. General Government and Libraries

Libraries

Issue: State aid for libraries

Action: Continue to support full or expanded funding for State Aid to Libraries

Purchasing

Issue: State Contracts

Action: Oppose changes to state contracting structure that would negatively affect county savings, purchasing power and efficiency that exist under the current state contracting structure.

Section VI. Statewide Issues

Protection of State Workforce

Issue: State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population, contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Recent executive and legislative actions have reduced the number state workers and, have placed numerous others at risk. In 2004, across the Board pay raises were zeroed out and healthcare premium increases were considered. Future actions impacting state workers are anticipated.

Action: Monitor this issue and advocate for the continued protection of our state workforce.

Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues

Issue: FAC represents 67 counties at the Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (similar to the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2004) to supporting the reconciliation of any outstanding "glitch" issues to fully implement of Revision 7 to Article V (state funding of state court costs). FAC will finalize their 2005 legislative program during their legislative conference in December, 2004.

Action: Support the 2005 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with the County's issues.

Waste Tire Grant Fund Distribution

Issue: In 2001, the state removed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Waste Tire Grant program, resulting in an approximate \$33,000 loss to Leon County and triggering a raise in the Tire tipping fee from \$57 to \$100 per ton. The 2002 and 2003 legislatures restored funding for the Waste Tire Grant Program but carved out 25% of the total Grant for spending on small counties with a population under 100,000. In 2004, the legislature approved funding of \$2.64 million for counties with population over 100,000. However, this line item was vetoed by the Governor this year, impacting Leon County by approximately \$35,000.

Action: Monitor this issue and advocate for continued funding of the Waste Tire Grant Program with county allocations based upon an equitable population based formula.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Ongoing 108th Congress Leon County Appropriations Requests

(Please Note: For complete information on each, please see Attachment #3)

The second session of the 108th Congress began on January 20th and is targeted to adjourn October 8th. The Board of County Commissioner's practice has been to focus the County's federal legislative program on appropriations issues. Any substantive issues that we have at the federal level are coordinated through our National Association of Counties (NACO) representation.

Staff continually works with the County's federal contract lobbying firm, Patton Boggs, throughout the year, to advocate for the County's targeted appropriation requests. Staff coordinates weekly with Patton Boggs by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant funding that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, Patton Boggs has been submitting monthly memoranda to update the Board on their federal lobbying activities in order to further improve communication between the Board and their federal lobbying firm.

Recent federal appropriation cycles have yielded some positive outcomes for County funding requests. The 2003 federal budget included two significant appropriations for Leon County, including \$1 million for the widening of Capital Circle NW/SW from I-10 to the Airport and \$375,000 for new equipment at the Ft. Braden Branch Library. Although the 2004 budget did not include funding for County requests, this was attributed by Congressional Delegation staff to their focus in 2004 of approving a significant level of funding for our Capital Circle NW/SW request through a bill re-enacting the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21 or "SAFE-TEA"). As you may recall, the House approved \$22 million this March in their version of TEA-21 legislation currently being considered. Gaining final federal approval of this bill has been the primary focus of staff and Patton Boggs during the past year.

Currently, neither house of Congress has adopted a comprehensive 2005 budget document. Similar to last year, it is likely that there may be one or a series of Continuing Resolutions (CR), potentially extending the time frame for adopting the 2005 spending plan into the new calendar year. The enactment of a CR would allow the federal government to continue operations over an interim period, while the final 2005 budget is being negotiated between the Congressional chambers.

In addition, Congress is still debating further action on two primary options for approving TEA-21 legislation this year. The first option would be to agree to a funding level and pass a six year bill for transportation projects (House and Senate leaders recently closed in on a \$299 billion figure but have yet to formally agree upon this amount). Under this option, conferees would meet during the month ahead and move a final version of the bill through both chambers before Congress recesses for the general election. This plan would likely include all or part of the \$22 million figure previously approved by the House for Capital Circle NW/SW. The other alternative Congress is presently considering is to pass a short term, one year TEA-21 extension with minimal earmarks for projects such as Capital Circle. This second option would allow congress to return to this issue after the 2004 general elections in order to pass a larger, more "long term" bill. Staff will continue to keep the Board apprised of this key funding request over the next few weeks as additional events unfold.

The following list details the six projects for which the County is seeking federal appropriations during the current legislative cycle:

Blueprint 2000 Project	\$71,000,000
Widening of Capital Circle NW/SW from I-10 to U.S. 90	
-Targeted Transportation Equity Act (SAFE-TEA) funding for this significant appropriation request.	
-Targeted funding in a smaller level as part of the 2005 federal appropriation process.	
- County and City contract lobbyists working together with staff on this key County/City funding issue.	
Watershed Studies	\$500,000
Eastern Sinks, or other County basin	

New Primary, Specialty and Mental Health Care Center for Frenchtown Relocation/Expansion/Furnishing of the Neighborhood Health Center	\$3,000,000
Lake Munson In-lake restoration	\$6,000,000
Lake Munson South Munson Slough Improvements	\$7,500,000
Lake Jackson and Apalachee Parkway Branch Libraries Equipment for both branch libraries	\$1,000,000

Proposed 109th Congress (first session) Appropriations Requests

(Please Note: For complete information on each, please see Attachment #3)

The first session of the 109th Congress will begin in January of 2005. Staff is recommending that the unfunded projects from the above list (second session of the 108th Congress) be updated and added to the project list for the first session of the 109th Congress, provided that such projects remain a County priority. In addition to these updated requests, staff recommends the following additions to the appropriation request list:

Killearn Lakes Sewer Retrofit Project Design/Construction	\$20,000,000
Women's Health Center Construction	\$1,000,000
Lake Jackson Ecopassage Funding amount after completion of feasibility study	TBD

Throughout the previous year, Patton Boggs has also worked with the County to identify additional grant sources such as for the County's EMS and Housing programs. Patton Boggs has also assisted in coordinating federal outreach for other county projects such as for the proposed women's health center. In addition to the federal appropriation requests, these activities have been very beneficial to the County from a policy and overall federal funding perspective. Staff also recommends that the Board approve the continuation of these ongoing efforts of our federal lobbying firm.

Please note that the contract with the current County Federal Lobbyist, Patton Boggs, is scheduled to end on December 31, 2004. Staff will bring back an agenda item to the Board in December 2004, for Board consideration on continuation of the contract for these services.

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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve the 2005 state legislative issues and 109th Congress (1st session) federal legislative issues as presented.
- 2) Approve the 2005 state legislative issues and 109th Congress (1st session) federal legislative issues as amended by the Board.
- 3) Provide Staff other direction

RECOMMENDATION:

Option #1

Attachments:

- #1: 2005 State Legislative Session Appropriation Request Forms and Related Materials
- #2: 2005 State Legislative Session Policy Request Forms and Related Materials
- #3: September 21, 2004 Memo from Ben Pingree (Relating to 2005 Federal Issues)

PA/VL/BHP/bhp

2005 State Legislative Session Appropriations Request Form

Department/Division: Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department
Contact Person: Colleen Roland Phone 891-8623 Fax: 891-8734
E-Mail: rolandc@talgov.com

Project Title: Capital Circle, NW, from US 90 to Interstate 10 (Construction)

1. Project Description: The purpose of this project is for improvement of the section of NW/SW Capital Circle from West Tennessee Street (US 90) to I-10. This will provide a much-needed intermodal connector between the Tallahassee Regional Airport and the major limited access highway in the southern United States. (I-10)
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected: (Identify effect and economic impact on County programs and services.) At this time, limited intermodal connections exist in this region. Connections are made to I-10 using urban arterials, which generally impede freight movements, given the amount of local traffic dependent on Capital Circle NW/SW for local area traffic movements. Plans for expansion of the Tallahassee Regional Airport will increase its viability as an intermodal facility. Additional capacity to this most direct connector to I-10 is necessary to insure successful and competitive economic development in this region that serves north Florida, southern Georgia, and southern Alabama.
3. Service and Benefit to State: The Tallahassee Regional Airport is the primary intermodal facility in the central Florida panhandle. Unlike other panhandle regional transportation facilities in Panama City and Pensacola, it does not serve a military-dominated economy. Unlike all other Florida intermodal facilities, it does serve the seat of Florida state government. Because of its regional service orientation, and its strategic access to I-10, it serves a large geographic area, including north-central Florida, southern Georgia and Alabama.
4. Population Served: This project serves state legislators, visitors to the Capitol Complex, Florida A&M University, Florida State University, local and regional populations, freight connections from the airport to Interstate 10.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
 - Right of Way Acquisition is scheduled in 2001/2002. Funding of \$24,048,000 has been advanced funded by Blueprint 2000 for land acquisition for the segment of this proposed project from *Interstate 10 to US 90 (Tennessee Street) only*. Latest construction estimates for this segment of the roadway are \$27.5 million, less the \$1 million federal appropriation received in 2003, leaving a deficit of \$26.5 million to construct this segment.

6. Funding

Total Project Cost for all Phases:

*Design:	Funded
*Right-of-way	Funded
*Construction	\$1 million Funded, Unfunded is \$26.5 million.

Construction is scheduled for FY 2005/2006)

*The segment from US 90 (Tennessee Street) to Interstate 10

- State Funding Requested : \$26.5 million or any portion thereof
- Other Present or Future Funding Sources: The County, Blueprint 2000 and the City of Tallahassee are seeking additional federal funding for construction of this roadway. Other matching dollars for construction would likely come from Blueprint 2000.

Backup materials attached: none

Approved by:

Group Director: _____ County Administrator: _____

2005 Appropriation Request Form

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Please Check: Federal Appropriation X State Appropriation X

Department/Division: Public Works Contact: Joe Brown

Phone: 488-8003 Fax: 488-1260 E-Mail: joebr@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Killearn Lakes Units 1 and 2 Sewer Retrofit Project

1. Project Description:

Project proposes to install municipal sanitary sewer service to these residential subdivisions thereby allowing existing septic tanks to be abandoned.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

Existing septic systems are failing to provide sewer treatment and pose risks to human health and safety as well environmental damages to nearby water bodies. Purpose of project is to provide an acceptable municipal sanitary sewer system such that the septic systems can be abandoned.

3. Services Provided/Benefit to State:

Services will include sewer service to residential area where existing septic systems have failed and the termination of pollution source that is threatening human health and area water bodies. Benefits will include enhanced health and safety for human population in the immediate area, enhanced water resource protection for area water bodies, protection of wildlife including endangered species, restoration of property values and associated tax base.

4. Population Served:

Approximately 1,440 homes will receive municipal sewer service and be able to abandon existing septic systems. A Large portion of Leon County will be served by pollution protection, so the entire population of Leon County can be considered served. Due to potential reduction of pollutants to Ochlockonee River, downstream counties may also realize benefits.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Construction could be started within 2 years of design start and completed / in operation within 18 months of construction start. If funding were assured, acceleration of the schedule could be attempted.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested: \$20,000,000

or

(\$20,000,000 total needed)

State Funding Requested \$ 20,000,000

Present or Future Funding Sources: \$5 Million Blueprint Funds

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.****

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: **X**

Department/Division: **Public Works/Eng. Design Svs** Contact: **Joe L. Brown III, P.E.**

Phone: **(850) 488-8003** Fax: **(850) 488-1260** E-Mail: **JOEBR@mail.co.leon.fl.us**

Project Title: **Harbinwood Estates Sanitary Sewer Improvements**

1. **Project Description:** Upgrade the Harbinwood Estates Subdivision from individual on-site septic tank systems to a centralized sewage collection and treatment system.
2. **Purpose of project and outcome expected:** The purpose of the project is to provide a modern system of sewage collection to an area that currently experiences wide spread septic tank failures. The outcome of the project is vastly reduced bacterial contamination of stormwater runoff and a reduction in the nutrient loads reaching Lake Jackson.
3. **Services Provided/Benefit to State:** Continues the restoration of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. **Population Served:** Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source via active sinkholes, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. **Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:**
6. **Funding:**

State Funding Requested: \$ 8,000,000

Present or Future Funding Sources: \$0

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.****

2005 State Legislative Session
Appropriations Request Form

Department/Division: Public Works Contact: Theresa Heiker

Phone: 488-8003 Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Project Title: **Lake Jackson/Harbinwood Water Quality & Drainage Improvements**

1. **Project Description:** Reconstruction/enhancement of an existing open stormwater conveyance system that is frequently overwhelmed contributing to poor surface water quality inflows entering Lake Jackson.
2. **Purpose of project and outcome expected:** Increase Lake Jackson surface water quality, and increase ground water protection in the area through reduction/Elimination of stormwater impacts to and degradation to Lake Jackson.
3. **Services Provided/Benefit to State:** Continues the restoration, and preservation thereof, of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. **Population Served:** Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. **Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:** Based on funding, construction could begin in FY 05/06.
6. **Funding:**
State Funding Requested: **\$1,000,000**
Present or Future Funding Sources: **\$2.3 Million County**
\$280,000 DCA (State)
\$500,000 NFWFMD

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____ County Administrator: _____

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.****

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: **X**

Department/Division: **Public Works/Eng. Design Svcs** Contact: **Joe L. Brown III, P.E.**

Phone: **(850) 488-8003** Fax: **(850) 488-1260** E-Mail: **JOEBR@mail.co.leon.fl.us**

Project Title: **Lake Jackson, Lexington Branch Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility**

1. **Project Description:** Construction of a large regional wet detention stormwater treatment facility to provide water quality treatment to a portion of the Lake Jackson Watershed that was developed prior to adoption of comprehensive stormwater management regulations.
2. **Purpose of project and outcome expected:** The purpose of the Lexington Branch facility is to address long standing stormwater quality and roadway flooding problems in the Fords Arm Lexington Branch of Lake Jackson. The outcome of the project is the overall reduction in the nutrient and sediment loads reaching Lake Jackson along with enhanced roadway safety during adverse weather conditions.
3. **Services Provided/Benefit to State:** Continues the restoration of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. **Population Served:** Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source via active sinkholes, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. **Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:**
6. **Funding:**

State Funding Requested: \$ 3,000,000

Present or Future Funding Sources: \$2.7 Million (BluePrint 2000)

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: **X**

Department/Division: **Public Works/Eng. Design Svs** Contact: **Joe L. Brown III, P.E.**

Phone: **(850) 488-8003** Fax: **(850) 488-1260** E-Mail: **JOEBR@mail.co.leon.fl.us**

Project Title: **Lake Jackson, Rhoden Cove Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility**

1. **Project Description:** Construction of a large regional wet detention stormwater treatment facility to provide water quality treatment to a portion of the Lake Jackson Watershed that was developed prior to adoption of comprehensive stormwater management regulations.
2. **Purpose of project and outcome expected:** The purpose of the Rhoden Cove facility is to address long standing stormwater quality and roadway flooding problems in the Fords Arm Overstreet Branch of Lake Jackson. The outcome of the project is the overall reduction in the nutrient and sediment loads reaching Lake Jackson along with enhanced roadway safety during adverse weather conditions.
3. **Services Provided/Benefit to State:** Continues the restoration of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. **Population Served:** Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source via active sinkholes, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. **Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:**
6. **Funding:**

State Funding Requested: \$ 3,000,000

Present or Future Funding Sources: \$1.9 Million (BluePrint 2000)

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.****

2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Works Contact: Theresa Heiker

Phone: 488-8003 Fax: E-Mail:

Project Title: Lake Munson In-Lake Restoration and South Slough Improvements

1. Project Description:

Leon County has dedicated substantial resources to construct upstream stormwater treatment facilities so that a restored Lake Munson does not return to its previous condition. The resource agencies which directed the upstream facility construction (such as FDEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) are being asked to assist in the restoration of the lake itself, including sediment removal, habitat restoration and recreational enhancements.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

Increase water quality, ground water and reduce stormwater flooding in the southside areas.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Continues the improvement of the water quality and reduction of groundwater flooding concerns in Souther Leon County.

4. Population Served:

Primarily the benefit will be to Southern Leon County residents. However, due to the Lake's direct connection with the region's drinking water source, this project serves the entire population of Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Based on funding, construction could begin in FY 04/05.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): \$ 6,000,000 (in-lake)/\$7,500,000 (slough)
State Funding Requested (as applicable): \$ 6,000,000/\$7,500,000 (as reflected above)
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): County - \$11 Million

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree at 488-9962.****

ALL APPROPRIATION FORMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004. THANK YOU.

9 18

2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: x State Appropriation: x

Department/Division: Health and Human Services Contact: Joe Sharp

Phone: 488-7790 Fax: 922-4749 E-Mail: sharpj@mail.co.leon.fl.us

Project Title: Women's Health Center

1. Project Description:
The project comprises the reconstruction of existing facilities and the additional of professional staff to provide women's and children's primary and specialty health care services to the 22,000 uninsured, indigent, and medically underserved female and child citizens of Leon County. Professional Staff additions will include OB/GYN, Pediatrics, and Radiology, at a minimum. It is anticipated that other highly specialized professional services such as cardiology, immunology, and cancer therapy may be acquired by contract.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:
The provision of primary and specialty health care services to 22,000 uninsured, indigent and medically underserved citizens of Leon County. By the application of regular and systematic health care regimen and preventative care protocols for women who do not now receive such care, lives will be fuller, richer, longer, and healthier, providing for a significant reduction in the \$67,000,000 in uncompensated care provided annually by local hospitals. In addition, children who are ineligible
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:
The State will benefit through the reductions in Medicaid expense though the reduction in the \$67,000,000 in uncompensated care provided annually by local hospitals. The County will benefit by having a healthier community and a healthier workforce with a significant reduction in absent from work days.
4. Population Served:
The population to be served are the 22,000 uninsured, indigent, and medically underserved women of Leon County.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
Construction/operations may begin immediately upon receipt of funding.
6. Funding:
Federal Funding Requested: \$1,000,000
State Funding Requested: \$1,000,000
Present or Pending Funding Sources: None

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: x State Appropriation: x

Department/Division: Health and Human Services Contact: Joe Sharp, Director

Phone: 850-488-7790 Fax: 850-922-4749 E-Mail: sharpj@mail.co.leon.fl.us

Project Title: Frenchtown Primary, Specialty and Mental Health Clinic

1. Project Description:
New Primary, Specialty, and Mental Health Care Center for the Frenchtown area. Currently, a basically volunteer center is housed within the old Lincoln High School Building and has reached it's maximum capacity with regard to service area as well as in the provision of services. Additional service capacity is desperately needed by the provision of additional staff providers. The current operation needs permanent housing of 30,000 to 40,000 square feet.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:
These facilities will primary and specialty medical and mental health care services to as 10,000 of the 31,000 uninsured, indigent and medically underserved citizens of Leon County.
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:
The State of Florida will enjoy significant benefits through the reduction Medicaid expenses by reducing the \$67,000,000 in uncompensated care provided annually by area hospitals. Further, the citizens of Leon County who are fortunate to possess health insurance coverage will benefit by the reduction of this "invisible tax" of uncompensated care that is increasing health insurance premiums by 3.8% annually.
4. Population Served:
The facility will provide primary and specialty Medical and Mental Health care services for up to 7,500 of the 31,000 uninsured, indigent and medically underserved citizens of Leon County.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
Construction may begin upon receipt of funding.
6. Funding:
Federal Funding Requested: \$3,000,000;
State Funding Requested: Same as Federal
Present or Pending Funding Sources: County is currently providing funding of \$500,000 annually from the Leon County Primary Healthcare MSTU for the provision of primary healthcare services at the current facility.

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Services/Library Contact: Helen Moeller

Phone: 487-2665 Fax: 487-1793 E-Mail: helenm

Project Title: **Lake Jackson Branch Library State Construction Grant.**

1. Project Description:

The County is seeking state construction grant funding to supplement construction costs of the Lake Jackson Branch Library. *(Please note: a State Construction Grant application will be filed in April 2005 for the Apalachee Parkway Branch Library for funding in 2006).*

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

To build a 10,000 square foot branch library in the northwest quadrant of Leon County.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The new branch will provide a building large enough for the northwest sector of Leon County to have a full-service library facility. The new building will have a public meeting room, public computers with free Internet (filtered) connections, storyhour space, quiet space for studying, a larger Reference area, and many more books and materials. The library will improve service statewide by having more books and materials available to all libraries in the state through interlibrary loan and the DLLI delivery program. The library is a 5-day a week subscriber to DLLI which moves Leon county library materials to Florida libraries quickly.

4. Population Served:

Entire population of Leon County, most heavily serving the northwest sector, about 30,000 residents. The building will be located on a Highway 27, a major traffic artery. The site is close to Canopy Oaks Elementary and the library will be built in conjunction with a new Boys and Girls Club which will share the site with the library. The library will serve a very diverse population. It will be very visible and access to it will be convenient.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2006

Dates depend upon award of construction grant. A competitive bid process has resulted in the selection of an architectural firm and the site is under evaluation for building.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): \$500,000 (equipment funding)

State Funding Requested (as applicable): \$500,000 (construction funding)

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

County - \$2.9 Million

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree at 488-9962.****

ALL APPROPRIATION FORMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004. THANK YOU.

2005 Appropriation Request Form

12 18

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: YYY

Department/Division: Public Works/Solid Waste Contact: Nancy Paul 8/18/04

Phone: 414-9346 Fax: 922-9219 E-Mail: pauln@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Florida Department of Environmental Protection Innovative Grant Program**

1. Project Description: (Please provide a brief description of the proposed project)
FDEP's Innovative Grant program awards up to \$200,000 per county for projects that will demonstrate the innovative use of materials typically found in the waste stream or processes that will increase market demand for recycled materials.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:
Leon County as been awarded \$930,000 in past Innovative Grants. The FY05/06 grant (if funded by the State legislature) will target mulch and glass cullet from the residential recycling program for use as bio-filters to treat landfill gases.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State: (Please describe briefly the service that this project will provide-once completed-and all applicable benefits to the county, region and state.)
With 60 active landfills in Florida and many more closed landfills, gas emissions are an issue. This project will provide information on landfill gas treatment alternatives that will be beneficial to all Florida counties.

4. Population Served: (Please provide a brief overview/estimate of the population that will benefit from this project's funding). **Leon County's population is over 250,000, with many more moving in and out from all over the state on a regular basis. The research conducted here with this project will directly affect the quality of life in Leon County and potentially the entire state.**

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation: (Please note: if the projection could be shortened based on receipt of state or federal funding, detail that as well) **Innovative Grant projects require at least one year, often more, to get established and operational. A year is the minimum length of time necessary.**

6. Funding: (Please delineate dollar amounts in the following sections)
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):
State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$200,000**
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection**

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____
Group Director: Nancy Paul, PE County Administrator: _____
8-19-2004

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree at 488-9962.****

ALL APPROPRIATION FORMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004. THANK YOU.

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: _____ State Appropriation: _____ X _____

Department/Division: Parks & Recreation Contact: Paul Cozzie

Phone: 488-0221 Fax: 414-0177 E-Mail: cozziep@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Apalachee Parkway Regional Park**

1. **Project Description: (Please provide a brief description of the proposed project)**
This project is for the conversion of the existing landfill to a regional park, to include youth and adult sports and recreation facilities, trails, natural areas, and access to and protection of lower Lake Lafayette. Appropriation will be requested through FRDAP or LWCF grant money.
2. **Purpose of project and outcome expected:**
The purpose of this project is to allow for the public enjoyment of a former landfill area while simultaneously providing the necessary monitoring and closeout of the existing landfill facility. In addition, planned youth sports facilities will provide needed play areas for the citizens of eastern Leon County, as well as regional recreational special interests.
3. **Service Provided/Benefit to State: (Please describe briefly the service that this project will provide-once completed-and all applicable benefits to the county, region and state.)**
In addition to being a model for beneficial post closure uses of landfill facilities, the conversion of the property to park land will provide needed recreation areas to the citizens of Leon County and neighboring counties, improve access to Lower Lake Lafayette, and protect Florida natural resources.
4. **Population Served: (Please provide a brief overview/estimate of the population that will benefit from this project's funding).**
Through the variety and quantity of facilities planned for this site, it is estimated the population served by this facility will include all of Leon County, and residents from nearby Jefferson and Wakulla counties. It is expected this facility will be home to several unique recreational areas including a radio controlled flyer airfield, soapbox derby track, and other more mainstream recreational activities and facilities.
5. **Projected Dates for Construction/Operation: (Please note: if the projection could be shortened based on receipt of state or federal funding, detail that as well)**
Construction of two multi-purpose ballfields is expected to commence in August 2004. Additional design and construction will begin in 2005.
6. **Funding: (Please delineate dollar amounts in the following sections)**
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):
State Funding Requested (as applicable): \$200,000
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): \$1,000,000

NOTE: Please attach backup materials. N/A

Approved by: _____
Group Director: Longfork, PE County Administrator: _____
8-12-04

****For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree at 488-9962.****

ALL APPROPRIATION FORMS ARE TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2004. THANK YOU.

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2005 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: ✓ State Appropriation: ✓

Department/Division: Capital Region TPA Contact: Jack Kostrzewa

Phone: 891 8600 Fax: 891 8734 E-Mail: Kostrzej@talgov.com

Project Title: Lake Jackson Ecopassage

1. Project Description:

Lake Jackson is a 4,000-acre sinkhole lake in northwestern Florida located seven (7) miles north of Tallahassee, Florida in the Ochlockonee River basin and is considered one of Leon County's most precious natural resources and is designated as an Aquatic Preserve by the State of Florida. Having a rich variety of wildlife is an integral part of Lake Jackson's ecosystem and should be protected in standing with Lake Jackson's designation as Florida's only lake Aquatic Preserve. This ecosystem was designated in 1974 as the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve "for the primary purpose of preserving and maintaining the biological resources in their essentially natural condition."

The water level of Lake Jackson fluctuates widely and is controlled naturally by rainfall and by two primary sinkholes (Porter Hole and Lime Sink). During drought conditions, a lowering of the water table causes leakage into the groundwater through the sinkholes and most of the lake bottom dries, an event that occurred eight (8) times during the 20th century (1907, 1909, 1932, 1935, 1936, 1957, 1982, and 1999) and once during the 21st century (2002), drying on average every 12.5 years. Normal annual water level fluctuations and periodic natural drydowns cause wildlife to attempt to migrate across the road.

During the drought of 1999-2000 in North Florida, Lake Jackson dried completely causing a mass exodus of thousands of animals that attempted to migrate to Little Lake Jackson which is directly across North Monroe Street (US 27). Since February of 2000 over 9,200 vertebrate animals of 57 different species (not including birds) have been documented attempting to cross the 3/4-mile section of North Monroe Street (US 27) at Lake Jackson.

In order to prevent a massive road mortality of migrating animals, a temporary fence using silt fence material was constructed that directed animals into an existing culvert under the road. A 3,000-foot fence along North Monroe Street (US 27) North was completed in April 2000 and has been monitored 2-4 times per day since construction. A second fence, (2,000 feet in length) was constructed along North Monroe Street (US 27) South to intercept animals that attempted to migrate across the road when Lake Jackson refilled. It too has been monitored 2-4 times per day since construction. Animals were hand-collected as they moved along the fences, measured, transported by hand across the

highway, and released into the water. In 33 months, over 8,000 reptiles and amphibians were saved from a potential deadly situation trying to cross North Monroe Street (US 27) by these temporary fences. However, more than 600 reptiles and amphibians were still road-killed during this period.

North Monroe Street (US 27) is a four-lane road that was built directly across a 3/4-mile portion of northwest Lake Jackson, isolating part of the lake to the west now known as Little Lake Jackson, and creating a barrier to movements of a wide range of wildlife. This road connects North Florida and South Georgia to Interstate 10 and into Tallahassee and points south with approximately 23,000 vehicles per day utilizing the corridor in the study project area. The project area is defined as a 4,000-foot section of US 27 that was built across the Lake Jackson basin including adjacent wetland and upland habitats.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

To address the wildlife mortality, habitat fragmentation, and traffic safety concerns, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has provided the funding to prepare a Lake Jackson Ecopassage Feasibility Study to lay the groundwork (including conceptual plans) for the development of an ecopassage where North Monroe Street (US 27) crosses the Lake Jackson basin.

The intention of the Feasibility Study Project is not to single out a specific species of animals for which to provide a mitigative action(s), but to study the existing conditions of animal and vegetative habitats, hydrological conditions, and roadway conditions. The types of mitigative action(s) that may result from the Lake Jackson Ecopassage Feasibility Study may range from the construction of animal tunnels to a wildlife wall (a wall that prevents animals from crawling over onto the road and attempting a crossing), or a combination of both.

Additionally, the project will provide the necessary documentation to the FDOT and Federal Highway Administration, that ensures this project complies with all Florida and Federal codes and regulations as they pertain to environmental, transportation, and public involvement. The project will require coordination between several Federal, State and local agencies and departments to adequately address the needs of interested parties to the fullest extent possible.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Lake Jackson ecosystem is a valuable biological, aesthetic and recreational resource of Leon County and the State of Florida. This ecosystem was designated as the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve for the primary purpose of preserving and maintaining the biological resources in their essentially natural condition. The expansive freshwater marshes and native submerged vegetation provide exceptional fish, waterfowl and wading bird habitat. Lake Jackson is internationally known for sport fishing and its trophy largemouth bass. In addition, the lake generates several million dollars annually for the Tallahassee and Leon County area. The completion of this project allows for Lake

Jackson to continue as an aquatic preserve through the preservation of the wildlife that assists in maintaining the ecosystem.

Additionally, wildlife "trespassing" on to US 27 represents a major threat to motorist safety. For example, many adult turtles weigh at least 5 to 10 pounds and are essentially "rocks in the roadway". When turtles are hit they can act as dangerous projectiles, causing serious damage to vehicles and injury to occupants. Without a proper guidewall to keep wildlife off of the highway, there is serious potential for vehicle accidents on a stretch of highway with 21,500 vehicles per day. The construction of the ecopassage will provide for the safety of the traveling human public

4. Population Served:

From a transportation perspective, on a daily basis there are 21,500 vehicles on the road at this location. If each car has 1.5 people (on average) that population reaches 32,250 people per day just for motorists.

From an environmental perspective, the entire community (255,000+) benefits from having a healthy lake system that feeds directly into the Florida Aquifer. From a recreational perspective there are several thousand people that utilize the lake for fishing, boating, and swimming purposes.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

The Lake Jackson Feasibility Study will be completed in January of 2005. At this time, the only phase funded is the study, and from the study efforts a course of action will be determined. It appears that in order to "separate" the human traffic from the wildlife traffic, a type of wildlife wall will have to be constructed. However, these options are not scheduled for presentation to the MPO until November 2004. The cost of each alternative is currently being developed.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): Unknown at this time.

State Funding Requested (as applicable): Unknown at this time.

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

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From: "Kostrzewa, Jack" <KostrzeJ@talgov.com>
To: "Pingree, Ben" <pingreeb@mail.co.leon.fl.us>
Date: 9/9/2004 9:01:10 AM
Subject: Lake Jackson Ecopassage

The Lake Jackson Ecopassage project began in April of 2004 with a nine (9) month completion schedule. The project has a budget of \$125,0000 which is to be used for the completion of the Feasibility Study. There are no other phases funded (design or construction). Currently, the project has completed the data collection effort and will be moving into the alternatives evaluation phase. There were six alternatives presented at a public meeting held on August 18, 2004 and they include:

1. No Action
2. Habitat Enhancement only
3. Temporary Silt Fence that is monitored by County Staff During Draw Downs
4. Replace Existing Culvert
5. Construct two or more new culverts and retaining walls
6. Construct Bridge with some retaining walls

Additional public comment:

For the most part, people felt that the first 4 alternatives (no action, habitat enhancement only, temporary fencing only and temporary fencing with monitoring) were unacceptable. Most people did not even bother to rank these alternatives, calling them out as "unacceptable", "bad idea" or "not a solution". One person (from the Advisory group) did feel that the temporary fence with monitoring would be the best option alluding to the fact that construction of a "wall" might be detrimental on the environment.

The "replace existing culvert only" seemed to be considered a more worthy solution (i.e. people did rank it), however, most people ranked it last out of the ones they did rank. From the comments, it appeared that most people felt that one passageway would not be enough.

The alternative that was ranked number one by most people was the multi-passage option (with a wall/barrier). Actually, it could be interpreted that people equally ranked the bridge and the multi-passage option as number one, however, most people defaulted to the multi-passage option, commenting that they felt that the bridge was probably unrealistic (in terms of cost, schedule, etc...) and that the multi-passage alternative was probably a more feasible option. One person who chose the multi-passage option over the bridge felt that construction of the bridge might be more detrimental to the existing habitat.

Out of the comments, only one suggested a new alternative- which was to construct a bridge at the location of the large culvert and add an additional passageway at another location of the project.

Most of the general comments received were in support of the project (i.e. along the lines of "glad this project is moving forward") There were a couple of comments that were commenting/suggesting things that seemed to be out of the scope of this project and more directed at bike/ped and greenways (i.e., asking to map the economic impact of pedestrian access from neighborhoods, etc. and considering the economic impact to local business

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from greenway acquisition, etc...) These could be seen as examples of why this project should be in sync with what is going on in the bike/ped master plan and greenway master plans. There was one comment that indicated any investment in this project should be protected from encroaching development (presumably so development wouldn't impact the species the passageway was built for). The comment specifically called out the Summerfield PUD as an example.

The costs for each of these alternatives are being developed and will be presented at another public meeting to be held in later this month (September).

Next Steps:

Complete Existing Conditions Report (September)
Continue other feasibility activities

Jack Kostrzewa
Acting Executive Director
Tallahassee-Leon County Metropolitan Planning Organization

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2005 State Legislative Session

Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: State Cost Shifts to Counties

Problem/Need

The 2004 Legislature passed a bill shifting \$90 million in state costs for the predisposition of juvenile offenders to counties. This move impacted Leon County by \$1.4 million this year, alone. Additional legislative proposals that would have cut up to \$220 million from the state's Medicaid Program were not passed in 2004. However, many of these proposals we anticipate to be reconsidered in 2005. One of these proposals included the effective elimination of Florida's Medically Needy Program: a program which provides healthcare to 35,000 indigent citizens. Significant reductions to the levels of Medicaid coverage for pregnant women were also considered but, did not pass.

However, the Legislature did approve a 5 percent reduction in the Medicaid reimbursements that Florida's nursing homes receive. HB 1843, by Rep. Green, delayed the state requirement that nursing homes increase their staffing levels until July 2005 to offset the impact of this revenue loss.

The Legislature also approved an interim legislative study to review the formula by which counties contribute their share of Medicaid payments for nursing home costs and it is anticipated that additional Medicaid cost shifts will be proposed in 2005.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Monitor the state funding of all state programs, including the Medicaid program, and support the continued state funding of these programs while opposing any state unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

*** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. **

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2005 State Legislative Session

Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

Because county government generates the majority of its revenue from property taxes, tax-exempt state properties represent an important loss of revenue to counties. Communities with a predominance of significant tax-exempt property owners within their jurisdictions face special challenges providing for the service and infrastructure needs of the tax-exempt property owners. Residents in these areas, too, are unique as they represent the few paying taxes for to benefit the many. This situation is especially prevalent in state capital communities such as ours and 21 other state capital local governments that have PILOT program reimbursements in place.

State owned property in the amount of approximately \$2.2 billion in assessed value is exempt in Leon County. As a result, Leon County has failed to collect approximately \$19 million annually due to state property tax exemptions.

In 2002, the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations accepted a directive from the Speaker of the House to study the PILOT issue, and it's potential applicability to Florida's communities. However, the Legislature failed to pass legislation expanding the PILOT program to Leon County during their 2003 and 2004 regular legislative sessions. Similar efforts to pass legislation in 2004 were also unsuccessful.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Seek legislation that creates a new state PILOT program that is beneficial to Leon County.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

*** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ***

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2005 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Funding

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

The 2003 Legislature created the new Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) to improve the system by which state road projects are prioritized for funding. The 2004 Legislature provided a state funding mechanism for SIS that uses State Transportation Trust Fund dollars to be used, in part, for projects on the SIS, requiring the FDOT to allocate at least 50 percent of any new discretionary highway capacity funds for SIS. The bill also directs MPOs to develop transportation programs and plans for metropolitan areas in cooperation with the state and with emphasis on all SIS and "emerging" SIS facilities, such as Capital Circle NW, a move supported by the state's MPO association.

Staff will continue to work with key decision makers to place priority County transportation projects on the SIS and enhance the potential for state funding of these County projects.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Monitor this issue, advocate the County's position, and support SIS funding for qualifying roads in Leon County.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

**** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ****

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2005 State Legislative Session

Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: Growth Management Reform

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

The 2003 and 2004 Legislature considered significant growth management reforms ranging from reforming the process for city annexations (which failed) to legislation preempting local authority in setting environmental regulations on agricultural land and on state highways (which passed). However, growth management reform issues that impact county, city and all local governments are normally raised during each session and warrant review and examination.

Legislative Interim Projects to be presented in 2005 include a review of Florida's growth management policy, a study of creating a Land Use Board of Appeals to review local use decisions, and an evaluation of the interaction and coordination between local governments, the DCA, and Regional Planning Councils.

Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes, or the "Community Redevelopment Act" provides that any newly created Community Redevelopment Agency must also be approved by the county commission in a charter county. However, a potential loophole in the Act has been construed by some cities to signify that creation of new Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) or expansion of existing CRAs do not require county commission approval.

During the 2004 regular legislative session, the County staff and lobbyists advocated for legislation to clarify the statutes that any CRA creation, modification, or expansion in a charter county does require approval by the county commission. This was a direct result of the dispute between the City of Tallahassee's efforts to create a Downtown CRA without the county's input or approval. The Leon County Delegation did not take action on the bill, instead requesting that the City and County mold a resolution to this key concern.

An agreement has since been approved and a final interlocal on the Downtown CRA has been reached. Staff still recommends the close monitoring of this critical issue in the legislative process.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Continue to monitor growth management issues and advocate county position.

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2005 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962 Fax: E-Mail :

Topic: Mental Health Services

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

The Leon County Partners in Crisis, Inc. has continued to advocate for expanded funding and mental health care services across our region. Leon County Partners in Crisis, Inc. seeks to increase funding for mental health and expanded analysis of the gaps in mental health services across the state due to a large deficit that has been identified in our area between the mental health service need and the services that exist.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Support the Florida Partners in Crisis legislative efforts in 2005 to address the above issues.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____ County Administrator: _____

**** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ****

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2005 State Legislative Session

Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Probation

Contact Person: Gloria Daniels

Phone: 487-3563

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: Jail Overcrowding, Pre-trial release, Probation and Juvenile Justice funding issues

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

The **following** issue statements from the 2004 legislative session remain pertinent for the 2005 legislative session.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

1) **State Funding for State Prisoners:** Support the state funding of state prisoners in county jails. Monitor legislation which requires county supervision of early release prisoners and of the numbers of juveniles, charged as adults, for their impact on county jail populations.

2) **Expanded Use for House Arrest:** Monitor any changes affecting house arrest and support its expanded allowable use as a condition of probation in misdemeanor and traffic offenses.

3) **Pre-trial Release Program:** Monitor any changes to statutes affecting pretrial release and advocate continued support for program. There has been a national push to eliminate the use of public money for pretrial release programs. In Florida, legislation was backed last year that would have negatively impacted the program. Similar legislation is anticipated in the coming legislative session.

4) **Juvenile Justice Funding:** Monitor juvenile justice funding levels and the potential reduction of local alternative and prevention programs to ensure that additional burdens for juvenile treatment and prevention is not further shifted to counties (As you may recall, a \$90 million cost shift to counties for predisposition costs of juvenile offenders was approved by the Legislature in 2004).

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

*** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ***

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2005 State Legislative Session

Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Public Services/Library Services Contact Person: Helen Moeller

Phone: 487-2665 Fax: E-Mail :

Topic: State Aid to Libraries

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)
State Aid is distributed according to Section 257, Florida Statutes to qualifying state and municipal libraries in Florida. This aid comprises approximately 10% of the County's expenditures for the Library and these funds are used to purchase over half of the County's library materials collection.

Leon County is estimating an allocation from the state of \$289,332 for library funding in fiscal year 2004/05, which is 14 percent less than the \$338,499 that was distributed by the state in the current fiscal year.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Continue to support full or expanded funding for State Aid to Libraries

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____ County Administrator: _____

*** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ***

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11

2005 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Management Svcs/Purchasing Contact Person: Keith Roberts

Phone: 488-6949 Fax: _____ E-Mail : _____

Topic: Maintenance of existing State Contracting Structure

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

The existing state contracting structure contains significant purchasing power and efficiency for the County. Any motion by the Legislature to change the existing structure should be monitored by staff and any limitations recommended for placement in the statutes should be opposed.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Monitor state contracting issue and support County position.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: _____

Group Director: _____ County Administrator: _____

**** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ****

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2005 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: Protection of the State Workforce

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

Recent executive and legislative actions have reduced the number state workers and have placed a significant number of others at risk for reduction. For example, the 2003 Legislature approved a budget that included a reduction of 1,700 positions (attributed largely to retiring and vacant position reductions). In 2004, efforts to raise health insurance premiums for state employees failed while across the board raises for state workers were replaced with a one time \$1,000 bonus.

State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population, contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers was a top priority of the Board during the 2005 Legislative Cycle.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Monitor this issue, and advocate for the continued protection of our state workforce.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

**** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ****

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2005 State Legislative Session
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: Administration

Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962

Fax: _____

E-Mail : _____

Topic: Florida Association of Counties

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

FAC represents 66 of the 67 counties at the Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2004) to supporting the reconciliation of any outstanding "glitch" issues to fully implement of Revision 7 to Article V (state funding of state court costs), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management. FAC will finalize their 2005 legislative program during their legislative conference in early December.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Support the 2005 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

*** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ***

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2005 State Legislative Session

Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: PW / Solid Waste Contact Person: Nancy Paul
Phone: 414-9346 Fax: 414-9353 E-Mail: pauln@mail.co.leon.fl.us
Topic: Program Continuation/Change in allocation of Solid Waste Management Trust Funds

Problem/Need (Identify effect on county programs and services and the economic impact)

Waste Tire disposal fees are currently collected at the retail level for each new tire purchased. The tire disposal fees generated in Leon County are being used as grants to small counties to fund their recycling and solid waste program. This allocation of fees generated in larger counties for use in small counties (less than 100,000 population) is creating a financial burden on Leon County's Solid Waste Department. Currently, a disproportionate share of these fees are directed toward smaller counties. In 2001, when FDEP Waste Tire Grants were eliminated, we raised the tipping fees for tires from \$57/ton to \$100/ton. Although the state has since replaced some funding for this program during the 2002 and 2003 state legislative sessions, there is still a significant gap between the funds Leon County receives from the state and the processing and disposal costs associated with waste tires.

The 2004 Legislature's budget included \$2.64 million for Waste Tire Grant Programs in counties with a population over 100,000, but was vetoed by Governor Bush. The impact of this veto action to Leon County was \$35,000.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

We recommend continuation of funding for the Waste Tire Grant Program at the state level.

We further recommend supporting that Waste Tire Disposal Fees collected be allocated to counties based on a normal population distribution scale. This is a fairer distribution and affords all Florida residents a more equitable distribution of this Fee. The more populated counties have more drivers who purchase the majority of automobile tires in our state. Residents who pay Waste Tire Fees have a reasonable expectation to benefit from the State's dispensation of these funds.

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:


Group Director: _____

County Administrator: _____

**** For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. ****

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 21, 2004
TO: Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: Benjamin H. Pingree, Assistant to the County Administrator 
SUBJECT: Appropriations Requests for the 1st Session of the 109th Congress.

Background:

For several years, the Board has conducted a workshop to set their legislative priorities and to establish the County's legislative programs at the state and federal levels. The Board's practice has been to focus the County's federal legislative program on appropriations issues while coordinating any federal substantive or policy issues through our representation at the National Association of Counties (NACo). In January of 2002, the Board retained a federal lobbying firm, Patton Boggs, to enhance the County's federal legislative program. Subsequently, the Board has extended their contract with Patton Boggs for federal lobbying services in twelve month increments. The current contract extension is through December 31, 2004.

Staff continually works with Patton Boggs, throughout the year, to advocate for the County's targeted federal appropriation requests. Staff coordinates weekly with Patton Boggs by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant opportunities that could potentially fund County project requests. In order to further improve communication between the Board and their federal lobbying firm, Patton Boggs has been submitting monthly memoranda to update the Board on their federal lobbying activities. Staff has also held meetings with Patton Boggs, and with members of the County's Congressional Delegation, to discuss and further prioritize the County's full funding request list. These efforts have been important in positioning the County's requests for available federal funding (latest monthly report from Patton Boggs is attached).

Recent federal appropriation cycles have yielded some positive outcomes for County funding requests. As you may recall, the 2003 federal budget included funding for two Leon County appropriation requests, including \$1 million for the widening of Capital Circle NW from I-10 to the Airport and \$375,000 for equipment at the Ft. Braden Branch Library. The 2004 federal budget, passed earlier this year, included no earmarks for County requests. However, members of our Congressional Delegation attributed this to their focusing on including Leon County's Capital Circle NW funding request (totaling \$71 million) through the passage of SAFE-TEA legislation. For example, a House bill that would re-enact the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21 or SAFE-TEA) was passed in March and included \$22 million for this key County road project. Although this legislation has yet to come out of congressional conference committee with final earmarks, passage of this legislation in 2004 to include funding for Capital Circle NW has maintained top priority by staff, Patton Boggs and members of the Leon County Congressional Delegation.

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September 21, 2004
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Update on ongoing activities of the second session of the 108th Congress:

Currently, neither house of Congress has adopted their version of the 2005 budget document. Similar to the last two years, it is highly likely that there may be one or a series of Continuing Resolutions (CR), potentially extending the time frame for adopting the complete 2005 spending plan into the new calendar year. The enactment of a CR would allow the federal government to continue operations over an interim period, while the final 2005 budget is being negotiated between the Congressional chambers. The likelihood for passage of CRs is increased this year as congress has recessed repeatedly for national party conventions and is set to recess again well in advance of this year's general election.

Significantly, it also appears likely that congress may act again to extend the time period for final approval of the re-enactment of SAFE-TEA beyond the end of the fiscal year (September 30th). Currently, congressional leaders are seriously considering two options for SAFE-TEA legislation. The first option would include conferees settling on a total funding level of near \$299 billion and passing a six year bill before the end of October. This scenario would increase the likelihood of a final earmark at or near the \$22 million level for the County's Capital Circle NW request. Another option being considered by congress would include passage of a one year SAFE-TEA extension, with a larger bill to be considered next year, after the 2004 general election.

The funding requests currently before Congress are projects identified at the September 23, 2003 Workshop on state and federal legislative priorities. The following is a brief overview of each of the current federal appropriation request issues:

Capital Circle NW/SW from I-10 to the U.S. 90 - \$71,000,000 Requested

Staff from the County, the City, Blueprint 2000 and their respective federal lobbying firms have worked over the past three years to prepare and advocate for the County, City, Blueprint and MPO's #1 funding request for TEA 21 re-authorization funds. As Blueprint 2000 has already advanced over \$24 million in funding to finalize the purchase of all rights of way, any federal dollars received for this key project (including the \$1 million federal appropriation of 2003) will be directed towards the estimated total \$27.5 million to construct this roadway. In addition to TEA 21 or SAFE-TEA funding, the County will also seek regular 2005 federal appropriations for this top ranked project.

Frenchtown Primary/Specialty/Mental Health Care Center - \$3,000,000 Requested

Leon County has worked collaboratively with the County Health Department and community health providers to increase access to healthcare for the low income and uninsured in our community. There are two key partners in the County's efforts. The first partner, Bond Community Health Center, recently opened a new facility in coordination with the County Health Department to expand their services. The County Health Department is also currently retrofitting a site near the Amtrack Station that will serve as a center for dental services. This request is to purchase and equip a new facility for the County's other primary partner for uninsured healthcare, Neighborhood Health Services (NHS). Limited by their existing, rented space at the Lincoln Center, a new NHS facility, in the Frenchtown area, would greatly improve comprehensive healthcare services for citizens.

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Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator
September 21, 2004
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Watershed Studies - \$500,000 Requested

Over the past four years, the County has aggressively sought funding for watershed and aquifer studies at both the state and federal levels. The County has been successful at the federal level, gaining funding for both the Lake Lafayette Watershed Study and for the Leon County Aquifer Protection Project. The next area targeted by staff for federal funding is the Eastern Sinks Watershed, but additional watersheds will be promoted based on funding availability in 2005.

Lake Munson In-Lake Restoration - \$6,000,000 Requested

Leon County has dedicated substantial resources to construct upstream stormwater treatment facilities so that a restored Lake Munson does not return to its current condition. The resource agencies which directed the upstream facility construction (such as FDEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) are being asked to assist in the restoration of the lake itself, including sediment removal, habitat restoration, and recreational enhancements. Specially designated funds to the in-lake restoration project as part of the 2005 federal budget, either provided to these agencies or to Leon County, are desired to complete the project.

Lake Munson Southern Slough Improvements - \$7,500,000 Requested

The Southern Slough of Lake Munson was dredged as part of the WPA program in the 1950's. Since then the channel has been poorly maintained and is crossed by utilities and access roads, impeding the flow of stormwater from Lake Munson to the receiving waters at Ames Sink. The majority of the slough path is in the Apalachicola National Forest and an opportunity exists to work with the U.S. Forest Service to modify the Slough to increase floodplain storage and enhance the habitat in this area. These activities would include broadening the channel, improving connections to intermittent pools, removing invasive nonnative plant species, controlling access points to reduce unauthorized use of the Forest property and protect sensitive habitats and extending the St. Marks Greenway along the entire length of Lake Munson.

(Equipment) Lake Jackson and Apalachee Parkway Branch Libraries - \$1,000,000 Requested

Building upon the success in gaining funding for equipment at the Ft. Braden Branch Library as part of the 2003 federal budget process, the County is seeking similar levels of federal funding for both the new Lake Jackson Branch Library and Apalachee Parkway Branch Library (as planned). Each request will be for \$500,000 to assist in equipping each branch library.

Proposed activities for the first session of the 109th Congress:

The first session of the 109th Congress will begin in January of 2005. Staff is recommending that the unfunded projects from the above list (second session of the 108th Congress) be updated and added to the project list for the first session of the 109th Congress, provided that such projects remain a County priority. In addition to these updated requests, staff recommends the addition of the following "new project" requests:

Killearn Lakes Sewer Retrofit Project - \$20,000,000 Requested

The abundant failure of existing septic tank systems in Killearn Lakes Units 1 and 2 have created a human health and safety hazard in the area, impacting water resources, wildlife and residents. The County is seeking \$20 Million from state and federal sources to provide central sewer services to the

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Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator
September 21, 2004
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estimated 1,440 area homes to mitigate and solve this health/safety issue. An additional \$5 million from local BluePrint funding will also be sought for this project.

Women's Health Center - \$1,000,000 Requested

This project comprises the reconstruction of existing community healthcare facilities and the addition of specialty staff to enhance primary and specialty healthcare services to the estimated 22,000 uninsured, indigent and medically underserved women and children of Leon County. Enhancements from this project could include OB/GYN, Pediatrics, radiology, cardiology, immunology and (potentially) cancer therapy services.

Lake Jackson Ecopassage – Amount to be requested soon to be determined

To address wildlife mortality, habitat fragmentation and traffic safety concerns, this project seeks to establish a permanent ecopassage for area wildlife that naturally traverse the areas around Lake Jackson and US 27 north (Monroe Street). Currently, a feasibility study is being completed by FDOT with local involvement being coordinated by the MPO. This study, which is anticipated in the January 2005, will include conceptual plans for an ecopassage and estimated funding requirements for same. Should the Board include this project now on the County's federal funding list, staff would add the funding level to the project once those figures are established by the feasibility study. This issue is also anticipated to be addressed at the November MPO meeting.

One issue that is being recommended by staff, Patton Boggs and by members of the Congressional Delegation for removal is the County's current \$300,000 "floodplain mapping" request. As you may recall, this request was intended to provide funding for the further advancement of the County's floodplain mapping and stormwater modeling technology. However, there has been significant concerns raised by congressional staff as to how any new technology would potentially impact the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) that are currently in use and focus on primary drainage systems. As there is concern that upgrades to floodplain mapping could negatively impact homeowners' flood insurance premiums and/or increase the number of homeowners required to have flood insurance, this issue has not been viable for federal funding in the past. It is therefore recommended for deletion from the County's federal appropriation request list.

It is also important to note that Patton Boggs has also worked with the County, in an ongoing manner, to advocate for and assist in identifying of potential sources of federal funding for numerous County programs including EMS and housing. Patton Boggs has also assisted in coordinating federal outreach on other county projects such as assisting in our initial analysis toward creating a women's health center. In short, all of these efforts have been beneficial to the County from a policy and funding perspective and would also be beneficial in the year ahead. I would also recommend approval of the continuation of these ongoing efforts of our federal lobbying firm. Please note that the contract extension with Patton Boggs is scheduled to end on December 31, 2004. I will work to prepare an agenda item for the Board in December 2004, for their consideration on the continuation of our federal contract lobbying services. Thank you.



2550 M Street NW
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(202) 457-6000

Facsimile (202) 457-6315

MEMORANDUM

Privileged and confidential attorney
work product

To: Leon County
From: Patton Boggs LLP
Date: September 9, 2004
Subject: Status Report for August 2004

Political Climate

Congress will return to session shortly after the Republican Convention in early September. Labor Day typically signifies the beginning of the Presidential election period. Each year, however, the campaign begins earlier – this year is no exception. Very early in the second session of the Congress, positions were staked out on key legislation that would be used as themes in the coming Presidential and Congressional elections. Democrats sought to showcase increased spending and a rising deficit as a result of Republican policy. The President, in part in an effort to bolster his image as a fiscal conservative, took a very hard-line position on TEA-21 Reauthorization. Likewise, he submitted a very austere FY2005 budget, which Congressional Republicans have tried to adopt in the FY2005 Appropriations process. The result in a fairly evenly split Congress has been stalemate. Thus, while in years past Congress finished significant work before the beginning of the Presidential and Congressional election season, this year very little work on legislation of concern to Leon County has been completed.

TEA-21 Reauthorization

Progress on TEA-21 reauthorization slowed in August as the House and Senate recessed for the traditional August recess and for the Presidential nominating conventions. Members of the Conference Committee did not reach an agreement on an overall funding level for the bill before they left for recess. While Conference Committee members left Washington, their staffs remained and continued their work

on finding agreements between the two bills. Nonetheless, funding differences, in many ways, drive the fortunes of the Conference Committee because so many of the controversies center around funding levels.

In the last legislative week before recess Senator Inhofe, in a surprise move, proposed another offer of \$289 billion in guaranteed funding and \$301 billion in obligation authority. Senator Inhofe indicated that he believed that this was the last hope for an agreement. Shortly before recess, the House proposed a counter offer that would provide \$284 billion in guaranteed funding and \$299 billion in obligation authority. Statements made by Senate conferees indicate that that level of funding would not be approved on the Senate side. Two things, however, emerged in the last week before recess that give hope for a bill this year. First, the Senate and the House offers are significantly closer, although the remaining differences remain a difficult hurdle. Secondly, Representative Bill Thomas (R-CA) indicated that the House proposal would be supported by the Administration – an important shift from the Administration's previous stance. Nonetheless, Congress will return in September with no agreement on a funding level.

Congress passed another 60-day extension on July 22, which the President signed on July 30.¹ While this gives Congress time to finish the bill – without a funding agreement it is unlikely that Congress will be able to finish its work on the bill by the end of September. This again makes another extension likely and Congress will have to choose whether to pass a long-term extension that pushes consideration of the bill into next year or whether it will address the bill in a lame duck session.

We continued to meet with Senator Graham's office (Senator Graham is a member of the Conference Committee) during the August recess. We also continued efforts with the other offices of the Leon County delegation this month to advocate for the County's TEA-21 requests.

FY05 Appropriations

With Congress in recess during the entire month of August, no public work was accomplished in either the Senate or the House on the FY05 Appropriations cycle.

¹ Highway programs would be authorized through September 24, and transit programs are authorized through September 30.

House Status

The House passed ten of the 13 appropriations bills before it left for recess. It must still pass the VA/HUD bill (the bill that would fund the Eastern Sinks project request); the Labor/HHS/Education bill (the bill that would fund the Frenchtown facility and the library project requests) and the Transportation/Treasury bill (the bill that would provide further funding for the Capitol Circle project request). All three of the bills have been marked up by the relevant House Subcommittees and by the full House Appropriations Committee. Earmarks were not included in the Labor/HHS/Education and Transportation/Treasury bills² and we expect projects to be added during conference committee negotiations. Earmarks were included in the VA/HUD full Committee mark. We have not yet seen the list of projects (we understand there are a large number of earmarks) but continue to track down the list. It is possible that the list will not be released until early September. We will update you as soon as we know more.

Senate Status

Although Senator Stevens (R-AK), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, scheduled a number of appropriations bills for markup in mid-July, almost all of those markups were canceled and have not been rescheduled. Since the Senate did not pass the Joint Budget Resolution, amendments offered on the Senate floor that would raise spending are not subject to a point of order. Essentially, this means that 60 votes are needed to end debate on amendments. Without points of order, debate on the appropriations bills can be significantly lengthened and Democrats are able to force debate and votes on issues that the Republicans would rather not bring to the floor. Senator Stevens sought an agreement that would limit debate on the bills and Democrats were unwilling to agree to the proposed limits. As a result, Senator Stevens canceled the scheduled markups and for the most part has not rescheduled them. Thus, the only appropriations bill that has passed the Senate is the Defense Appropriations Bill. Three other bills, including the Homeland Security bill, have been marked up in full committee, but have not yet been brought to the floor of the Senate. The remaining nine bills await Subcommittee markup. Senator

² Some projects were included in the House Subcommittee and full Committee mark up the Transportation/Treasury Appropriations bill. Highway projects were not included and transportation earmarks appear to be limited to First Starts transit projects and airport projects. We expect that other transportation related projects will be added in at the Conference Committee.

Stevens recently indicated that he would like to take up the Homeland Security Bill as soon as the Senate returns.

Appropriations Outlook

While the House has accomplished a significant amount of work this summer, it is still likely that most appropriations bills will be rolled into one omnibus bill or a number of "minibus" bills. Senator Stevens indicated that a strong possibility exists that the Senate would take all of the bills passed by the House to date, and roll them into one omnibus bill when the Senate next week. Such a strategy would leave the Labor/HHS/Education, VA/HUD and Transportation/Treasury bills out of that omnibus package and these bills would need to be passed as stand-alone bills as part of some other package. Another strategy would be to split the bills into smaller groupings and pass them as "minibuses." Regardless of the strategy, however, we anticipate that most of the appropriations bills will need to be rolled into some sort of omnibus package. This probably would not occur until late September or early October. There remains the possibility that the appropriations process will be carried into a lame duck session of Congress or that on some of the bills Congress would pass a continuing resolution keeping the FY05 spending levels the same as the FY04 levels and forego some of the appropriations bills.

We continued to meet with the offices of Senators Graham and Nelson, and Representatives Boyd and Crenshaw during August regarding Leon County's FY05 appropriations requests.

We hope you found this information helpful. Please let us know if we can provide any further detail on the issues discussed in this memo.